

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-8
BURNING RESTRICTIONS
(STAGE 1 RESTRICTIONS)**

WHEREAS, severe to extreme fire situation exists throughout Crook County, created by a heavy fuel load and dry conditions, that could create situations that over-extend the firefighting capability of local government; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is governed by the laws and rules of the State of Wyoming only has jurisdiction over the unincorporated area of Crook County, Wyoming, set forth in Wyoming Statute 35-9-402, excluding the areas within the incorporated cities and towns within Crook County, and federal lands managed by the Forest Service, Devils Tower National Monument, and BLM. These entities may impose more or less restrictive regulations. The Commissioners strongly recommend that the above listed agencies follow this restriction and ban the sale and discharge of fireworks in their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statute 35-9-301 through 304 and Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners Rules and Regulations Chapter 9 Governing Fire Danger Closures provides that upon the recommendation of the County Fire Warden, the Board of Crook County Commissioners may impose due to fire danger a Stage 1 Restriction, Stage 2 Restriction, or Closure of the unincorporated area of the county with certain exceptions, to any form of use by the public or limit such use which shall include the prohibition of any type of open fire for such periods of time as the Board may deem necessary and proper; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 9, Section 8 of the rules governing Fire Danger closures provides the descriptions of the restricted, prohibited, and allowable activities under Stage 1 restrictions, Stage 2 restrictions, and Closures are provided as follows:

(a) Stage 1 Restrictions

- (i) Discharge of fireworks and all outdoor fires are prohibited in the unincorporated areas of the county with in the jurisdiction of the Commissioners.
- (ii) Only campfires at residences or campsites, within a fire ring centered within a minimum of a 15ft. cleared radius of burnable materials are permitted.
- (iii) Trash or refuse fires between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., inside containers provided with spark arresters and located within a cleared radius of a minimum of 15ft. of burnable materials are permitted.
- (iv) Charcoal fires within enclosed grills are permitted.
- (v) Use of acetylene cutting torches, electric arc welders, or metal grinding in a cleared radius of 15ft. burnable materials are permitted.
- (vi) The use of portable stoves, lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or fully enclosed (shepherd type) stove and open fire branding activities in a cleared radius of 15ft of burnable materials are permitted.

(b) Stage 2 Restrictions

- (i) All activities provided in Stage 1 restrictions are prohibited.
- (ii) All campfires are prohibited.
- (iii) Devices using pressurized liquid or gas (stoves, grills or lanterns) that include shut-off valves are permitted when used in an area at least three feet or more from flammable material such as grasses or pine needles.

(c) Closure

- (i) All activities provided in Stage 1 Restrictions and Stage 2 Restrictions are prohibited.
- (ii) Access to the identified area shall be managed by the County.
- (iii) All outdoor fires, including, but not limited to, trash fires, charcoal fires, portable stoves, lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or fully enclosed (shepherd type) stove and open fire branding activities are prohibited.
- (iv) Smoking shall be restricted to inside vehicles or buildings.
- (v) Fires within fireplaces and wood stoves without chimney or flue screens are prohibited.
- (vi) All motorized travel shall be restricted to developed roads.

WHEREAS, Wyoming Statutes 35-10-201 through 208 allow for the regulation of fireworks; and

WHEREAS, any violation of this resolution may be in violation of W.S. 35-9-304 punishable by up to 30 days in jail and up to a \$100.00 fine or both together with possible restitution for the cost of fire suppression and damages to others caused by the violation of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County Fire Warden, Charlie Harrison, has recommended that Stage 1 Restrictions be imposed throughout the county after a reasonable time of notice for the following reasons: persistent drought and increased temperatures; and

NOW THEREFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLVE AND ORDER THAT the following Fire Danger Restriction be imposed in the unincorporated area of Crook County, Wyoming effective immediately and until further notice as follows:

1. STAGE 1 RESTRICTIONS

2. RESTRICTION AREA IMPOSED: The Stage 1 Restriction is imposed in the unincorporated area of Crook County, Wyoming subject to its jurisdiction and does not include the listed exceptions, the areas within the incorporated cities and towns within Crook County, or federal lands managed by the Forest Service, Devils Tower National Monument, and BLM.

3. PERSONS EXEMPTED: The following persons are exempt from the restrictions, and closure orders:

- (a) Any federal, state, or local officers engaged in fire, emergency, and law enforcement activities.
- (b) Any member of rescue or firefighting force engaged in performance of an official duty.
- (c) Exceptions to these restrictions and closures can be made in writing by the County.

4. NOTICE TO OTHER AGENCIES: The County Fire Warden shall immediately provide a copy of this Resolution and Order to the County Sheriff, Wyoming State Forester, State Land Commissioners, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Keyhole State Park and other state and federal agencies.

5. PUBLIC NOTICES: The County Fire Warden shall immediately post the fire ban signs throughout the county and notify the public through advertisement in each newspaper published in the County, by press release to the Radio and TV stations broadcasting within Crook County, by the Public Alert system CodeRed, the WYDOT 511 system, County Web Site www.crookcounty.wy.gov, Facebook, update BH Fire Restriction Website and any other method that would economically notify the public.

6. If any portion of this resolution is ruled to be not effective by a court the remaining portion of this resolution shall remain in effect.

7. TERMINATION OF STAGE 1 RESTRICTION: The Board may terminate the restriction or closure order by rescinding the closure order upon a proper showing of evidence by the county fire warden that the fire danger no longer warrants the closure order. The county fire warden shall immediately notify the State Forester if a restriction or closure order is terminated.

Motion made, seconded and carried in an open meeting on April 2, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING

BY

FRED M. DEVISH, CHAIRMAN

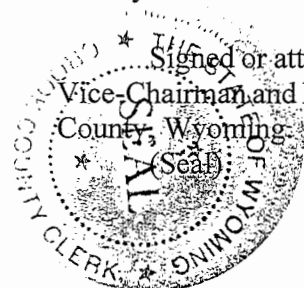
BY

BOB LATHAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN

BY

DALE DAVIS, MEMBER

State of Wyoming }
County of Crook }



Signed or attested before me on April 2, 2025, by Fred M. Devish, Chairman, Bob Latham, Vice-Chairman and Dale Davis, Member, Board of Crook County Commissioners in and for Crook County, Wyoming.

Melissa Jones
Melissa Jones, Crook County Clerk

My Term Expires the First Monday in January 2027